

interview was rough, take a look at hers. Judge Jackson showed incredible grace during more than 20 hours of questioning that at times was incredibly hostile and rude. I would challenge any Member of this Chamber to endure that level of pressure without cracking. I am quite certain I couldn't do it. She is eminently qualified, and we have seen her judicial temperament up close.

What really makes Judge Jackson's nomination historic is this number: 115. One hundred and fifteen. That is how many U.S. Supreme Court Justices have served in our Nation's entire history—115. Out of those 115 Justices, 108 have been White males. Just think about it for a moment. In other words, nearly 94 percent of the Supreme Court Justices in our Nation's history have been White men. That is a very exclusive club.

And like many very exclusive clubs, it has tended to leave a lot of folks out in the cold. In a country as magnificently diverse as ours, that is simply not right, and I am so grateful that President Biden understands this.

The decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court touch every single American. What does the right to vote truly mean under our Constitution? Freedom of religion; our freedom of speech. How are we as consumers or workers treated under our Constitution? Can a public school district force White students to attend one school while sending Black students to another? Can that same public school district refuse to educate students with disabilities? Can a couple be prevented from marrying and spending the rest of their lives caring for one another because they happen to be gay? And can a State override a woman's right to privacy and force her to continue a pregnancy that puts her own health and future at risk?

These are some of the types of decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court every day. And when the Supreme Court doesn't look like America, it means that its decisions are less likely to take into account the lives and the needs of all Americans.

The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg had a straightforward answer when she was asked how many women should serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. How many was enough? "Nine," she would say.

Well, we are not quite there yet—but four? I would say that is a pretty good start. And a Black woman Justice? It is about time. It is past time.

You may have seen a wonderful photo making the rounds. It is of Judge Jackson's 17-year-old daughter Leila. It was from the first day of the nomination hearing. Leila is wearing a beautiful lavender suit and sitting behind her mom.

The expression on her face is absolutely priceless. She is looking at her mom with such admiration and pride.

Well, Leila isn't alone. Millions of young Black girls and their moms and their grandmas are looking at Judge

Jackson with that same pride and admiration. They have never had someone who looks like them serving on our Nation's highest Court.

And how many of these young girls will see this incredibly accomplished woman and think, "Hey, that could be me"? I hope they all do.

I will be honored to support Judge Jackson's confirmation. I am excited. I am proud of her. And I urge my colleagues to do the same. It is past time.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JAMES C. O'BRIEN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of James O'Brien to be Coordinator of Sanctions Policy at the U.S. Department of State.

At a time when we must keep the pressure on Putin to end his unprovoked, brutal, and illegal war against Ukraine, we need experienced officials at the helm to ensure that we are using every sanctions tool against Russia. As the power of our sanctions has been amplified by working closely with our allies and partners around the world, the long-term success of those efforts will be greatly enhanced by having a Senate-confirmed official in place to ensure that those coordination efforts continue and that we maximize the costs on Russia's economy.

Mr. O'Brien is exactly the type of leader that the Office of Sanctions Coordination needs. And he brings impressive substantive expertise and professional background to this role.

Mr. O'Brien is a former career employee of the State Department and recipient of numerous performance awards. He has served two U.S. administrations as a special envoy, for Hostage Affairs, and for the Balkans. Over the course of his career at the State Department, he has led a large and successful sanctions program and advised on a range of issues, including peace negotiations in Europe, scientific and environmental agreements, and initiatives to investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes.

In addition, Mr. O'Brien has negotiated agreements protecting intellectual property rights for scientific cooperation with China, promoted environmentally sound international trade regulations for hazardous and recyclable materials, and worked to make public-private partnerships and corporate social responsibility an important element in American foreign policy. As the first Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, he helped establish the office and worked for the safe return of 100 American citizens.

I have no doubt that he will bring the same dedication and rigor to advancing and coordinating U.S. sanctions policy as he has his prior roles.

I strongly support confirming Mr. O'Brien. His confirmation will be critical to enhancing our sanctions efforts at this critical time. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his

nomination, along with all of the foreign affairs nominations pending before this body, to advance our national security interests and improve our representation abroad.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the O'Brien nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador. (New Position)

VOTE ON O'BRIEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the O'Brien nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Sanders
Blunt	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Burr	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cantwell	Leahy	Smith
Capito	Lujan	Stabenow
Cardin	Manchin	Sullivan
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McConnell	Thune
Collins	Merkley	Tillis
Cornyn	Murkowski	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murray	Warner
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warnock
Durbin	Padilla	Warren
Feinstein	Paul	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	Young
Hassan	Risch	

NAYS—26

Blackburn	Fischer	Lummis
Boozman	Hagerty	Marshall
Braun	Hawley	Moran
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cotton	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Kennedy	Shelby
Daines	Lankford	Tuberville
Ernst	Lee	

NOT VOTING—3

Coons	Menendez	Sasse
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States.

When confirmed later this week, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will be the first Black woman on the U.S. Supreme Court in its 233-year history.

Yesterday morning, I had the privilege of meeting with her, and we discussed her judicial methodology as well as her story and her path in the law. Rising up to overcome so many barriers, Judge Jackson's story and her family's story is truly an American story. It is a story of hard work and sacrifice. It is a story of commitment to excellence.

Judge Jackson's academic credentials are impressive: graduating from Harvard College and Harvard Law School with honors from both college and law school.

Her unparalleled professional credentials and the breadth of her legal experience equal or exceed that of any nominee in recent history. She has worked in private practice. She has worked as an assistant public defender—Federal public defender—and as a law clerk at every level of the Federal judicial branch, including a law clerk to Justice Breyer, who is going to be retiring from the Court. Perhaps most important, she has worked as a Federal judge for nearly 10 years, presiding over trials and later hearing appeals.

During our meeting yesterday, Judge Jackson spoke about her career transition from attorney to Federal judge and specifically highlighted how her career as a trial attorney helped her grow into becoming a Federal judge.

Often lost in our discussions regarding Federal judges are the people, the people who are impacted directly by our legal system in our judges' decisions. At its core, our court system, more so than any other institution, is dedicated to the idea that everyone—everyone, not just the wealthy or powerful—should have a fair shot at justice and that no one—no one—is above the law.

The Beatitudes in the New Testament speak to this idea of justice. We have all heard it over and over again:

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

The power—the power—of our judicial system and our judiciary stems from the integrity and the independence of our judges. It stems from their unrelenting commitment to the rule of law and to equal justice for all Americans.

Throughout her career but particularly as a public defender—a Federal public defender—Judge Jackson has fought for a more equitable and a more just America, representing individuals accused of committing crimes and those who cannot afford a lawyer. All of those cases are difficult cases for

any lawyer. The lawyer must be committed to upholding a core American value that our legal system must protect all Americans, including defendants, to ensure “Equal Justice Under Law,” as is inscribed on the front of the Supreme Court itself.

Judge Jackson has lived this commitment to justice, to equal justice. She understands the awesome power that will be bestowed upon her as a Supreme Court Justice. She has seen firsthand the impact that a judge's decision can have on plaintiffs and defendants alike. It is why Judge Jackson has discussed how, when she was a district judge, she would often take extra care to communicate with defendants in her courtroom to ensure that they understood the complexities of the legal proceedings happening before them. For when a defendant is before the bar of justice, their liberty is at stake, and Judge Jackson wanted to make sure that they understood what was happening before them and what could happen to them.

Her commitment to equal justice is also evident by her impartial rulings and the widespread support she has received from across the political spectrum.

As a district court judge and as a circuit court judge, Judge Jackson has ruled for and against the government, in favor of prosecutors and for criminal defendants, for labor and for business, for civil plaintiffs and defendants.

Her nomination received the support from several Republican Senators, Republican-appointed judges, and former Republican-appointed officials.

She received broad support from law enforcement organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and other top law enforcement officials, including former Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, as well as crime survivors, and other advocates.

Her nomination has received further support from civil rights organizations as well as business organizations.

Of course, Judge Jackson's nomination is about more than simply the great support that she has received and her impeccable credentials. Both are important, but that is not it.

Yesterday morning, after my meeting with Judge Jackson, she was kind enough to meet with several members of my staff who have graduated from law school or who are getting ready to apply to law school, some of whom have been accepted. She offered some salient advice about law school. I won't disclose what it was here, but it was good advice. And she encouraged them to keep going, to persevere.

Now, Judge Jackson is already today, and has been for weeks and months now, an inspiration to tens of millions of Americans. Her graciousness, her humility, and her legal acumen are simply unmatched. Her confirmation to the Supreme Court will also inspire many future generations, those yet to

come and not simply future lawyers and advocates. And certainly and particularly, her nomination and her confirmation will be particularly inspiring to young Black women and girls to persevere, as she said to our staff yesterday.

The day of her confirmation will be a good day for America. She lifts our spirits at a very difficult time for our Nation. And while we have a long way to go, Judge Jackson's nomination is an important step to bringing us closer to having our institutions better reflect the great diversity of our Nation as we strive to be a more perfect Union.

I will go back to the Beatitudes again. “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.” Judge Jackson, I have no doubt, will continue her work to strive for justice, to act with justice, as one of the great hymns tells us. She will do all of this as she discharges her duty as Justice Jackson.

I look forward to voting for her to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of Judge Jackson to be the 116th Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

As a Senator, one of the most important responsibilities I have under the Constitution is whether to provide my consent to a President's nomination to the Supreme Court, the highest Court in our land.

The Framers carefully designed our Constitution using an intricate system of checks and balances. The Framers designed the third branch of government, the judiciary, to be an independent branch from the political branches of government: the legislature and the executive branch.

Judges were given the unusual protection—unlike Congress and the President—to have lifetime tenure and to hold their offices during good behavior. Judges, therefore, do not have to fear retribution or loss of their office or diminution of their paycheck if they make an unpopular decision.

So while the Supreme Court must show a healthy respect for the other coequal branches of government, it must, at the same time, preserve its own independence and ultimately interpret the laws and Constitution of the United States. A critical part of the Supreme Court's role is to preserve and protect the Constitution and to make sure that all Americans are treated equally under the law.

The marble entrance of the Supreme Court has etched above it the promise of equal justice under the law for all persons who enter. The Supreme Court must vigorously uphold the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans and pay special attention to safeguarding and enforcing the constitutional rights